## FILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" UNDER 37 CFR 1.10 EL913013912US December 10, 2001 Express Mail Label Number Date of Deposit

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

FU ET AL.

APPLICATION NO:

FILED:

FOR: INVERSE LABELING METHOD FOR THE RAPID IDENTIFICATION OF MARKER/TARGET PROTEINS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, under Field of the Invention, please insert -- This application claims the benefit of U.S.Provisional Application No. 60/257,559, filed on December 22, 2000 and of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/332,965, filed November 19, 2001. --

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis Corporation Patent and Trademark Dept. 564 Morris Avenue Summit, NJ 07901-1027 (908) 522-6938

Date: December 10, 2001

Susan Hess

Attorney for Applicants

Reg. No. 37,350